



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 6, 2012

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Riverside Sister City Committee Recognized with Program Excellence Award

Riverside, California – Riverside's Sister City Committee was recognized by the US Mexico Sister City Association with a Program Excellence Award at their annual conference in Culver City on March 3.

Riverside established a sister city relationship with Cuautla in 1968 and with Ensenada in 1976. Riverside's partnerships with these two cities have centered on municipal cooperation, focusing on public safety and health, and building art alliances.

Mayor Ron Loveridge was delighted to receive the award saying: "This honor is a welcome recognition of the mutual benefit that is gained from thriving Sister City programs. We always seek to create economic, educational and cultural opportunities for our community and for our Sister City partner."

Riverside was recognized for its efforts to provide public safety equipment and training as well as programs to enhance the arts across our borders. Riverside donated a Hazardous Material Response Vehicle, a Battalion Fire Chief Response Vehicle and two paramedic vehicles to the Cuautla Fire Department to aid with their response to chemical and hazard fires. In addition, Riverside provided a comprehensive training workshop for 10 detectives of the State Police of Morelos stationed in Cuautla.

Riverside Police Chief Sergio Diaz commented, "knowledge sharing is a great way to enrich our sister cities. This program provided a wide range of training in areas including gang intervention, arson, sexual assault, child abuse, kidnapping and bomb investigation."

Riverside's excellence was also recognized for its Mexico Sister Cities Arts Programs where arts awareness was elevated through arts sharing. The International Relations Council and Mayor's office worked with Riverside Community Arts Association (RCAA) to arrange for Riverside artists to travel to Ensenada where artworks were created and then brought back for display. The collection also displayed at the arts walk in Ensenada. A similar musical

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exchange program was created where the Riverside Civic Lite Opera and the Ensenada Chamber Orchestra traveled to each city to join together for joint “sold-out” concert performances.

For more information about Sister City Program, contact Lalit Acharya at (951) 826-5692.

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